AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide molecule containing ~~at least 10~~ at least 50 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,

with the proviso that ~~all or part of~~ one or more polypeptides selected from the group consisting of the following polypeptides are excluded:

(i) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQ EQQHNVEE (SEQ ID NO: 10)

~~(ii) VEESVEENDEESVEENVEENVENNDDGSVASSVEESIASSV DESIDSSIEENVAPTVEEIVAPTVEEIVAPSWEKCAPSVEESVAPSVEES VAEMLKER (729S, SEQ ID NO: 11),~~

(iii) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQEQQHN (SEQ ID NO: 12),

(iv) DELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQ (NRI, SEQ ID NO: 13),

(v) LEESQVNDDIFSNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV (NRII, SEQ ID NO: 14), and

(vi) VESVAPSVEESVAPSVEESVAENVESSV (729RE, SEQ ID NO: 15).

Claims 28 - 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide molecule having at least 70% homology with the polypeptide molecule of Claim 27.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A polypeptide molecule having at least 70% homology with the following sequence:

Leu Leu Ser Asn Ile Glu Glu Pro Lys Glu Asn Ile Ile Asp Asn Leu Leu Asn Asn Ile (CT1 ; SEQ ID NO : 16).

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The isolated polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, displaying at least 70% homology with SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): A method of *in vitro* diagnosis of malaria in an individual likely to be infected by *P. falciparum*, which comprises the bringing of a tissue or biological fluid taken from an individual into contact with a polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, under conditions permitting an immunological reaction between the said polypeptide molecule and the antibodies possibly present in the tissue or the biological fluid, and the *in vitro* detection of the antigen/antibody complexes possibly formed.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 33, wherein the tissue or biological fluid is brought into contact with a mixture of polypeptide molecules and other molecules originating from antigens of the sporozoite stage, namely LSA-1, SALSA or STARP.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, comprising at least one polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, reagents for making up medium for ~~the~~ a reaction, and reagents enabling ~~the~~ an antigen/antibody complex ~~complexes~~ produced by ~~the~~ an immunological reaction to be detected.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, comprising at least one polypeptide molecule according to Claim 30, reagents for

making up medium for ~~the~~ a reaction, and reagents enabling ~~the~~ an antigen/antibody ~~complexes~~ complex produced by ~~the~~ an immunological reaction to be detected.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, comprising at least one polypeptide molecule according to Claim 31, reagents for making up medium for ~~the~~ a reaction, and reagents enabling ~~the~~ an antigen/antibody ~~complexes~~ complex produced by ~~the~~ an immunological reaction to be detected.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A kit for the in vitro diagnosis of malaria, comprising at least one polypeptide molecule according to Claim 32, reagents for making up medium for ~~the~~ a reaction, and reagents enabling ~~the~~ an antigen/antibody ~~complexes~~ complex produced by ~~the~~ an immunological reaction to be detected

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A conjugate consisting of the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27 and a support on which said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): A conjugate consisting of the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 30 and a support on which said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): A conjugate consisting of the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 31 and a support on which said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn): A conjugate consisting of the polypeptide molecule according to Claim 32 and a support on which said molecule is adsorbed.

Claim 43 (Canceled):

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The conjugate of Claim 39, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, polystyrene microspheres, and beads.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The conjugate of Claim 40, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, orpolystyrene microspheres, and beads.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The conjugate of Claim 41, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, polystyrene microspheres, and beads.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The conjugate of Claim 42, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of latex, polystyrene microspheres, and beads.

Claim 48 (Canceled):

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): An isolated nucleic acid, containing a sequence coding for a polypeptide molecule containing at least 10 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,

with the proviso that all or part of one or more polypeptides selected from the group consisting of the following polypeptides are excluded:

(i) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV EE (SEQ ID NO: 10),

(ii) VEESVEENDEESVEENVEENVENNDDGSVASSVEESIASSVDESIDSSIE ENVAPTVEEIVAPTVEEIVAPSVVEKCAPSVEESVAPSVEESVAEMLKE R (729S, SEQ ID NO: 11),

(iii) RDELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQVNDDIFNSLVKSVQQEQQHN (SEQ ID NO: 12),

(iv) DELFNELLNSVDVNGEVKENILEESQ (NRI, SEQ ID NO: 13),

(v) LEESQVNDDIFSNSLVKSVQQEQQHNV (NRII, SEQ ID NO: 14), and

(vi) VESVAPSVEESVAPSVEESVAENVESSV (729RE, SEQ ID NO: 15).

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): A recombinant vector containing the nucleic acid of Claim 49.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The vector of Claim 50, which is a plasmid, cosmid, or phage.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn): A recombinant vector suitable for expression of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of Claim 49, containing a nucleic acid in a region which is not essential for the replication of the vector, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a cosmid, and a phage.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): A method of producing an immunogenic poypeptide, comprising administering the nucleic acid of Claim 49 to a host cell, wherein the host cell produces an immunogenic polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid.

Claim 54 (Withdrawn): A method of producing an immunogenic polypeptide, comprising administering the vector of Claim 50 to a host cell, wherein the host cell produces an immunogenic polypeptide encoded by the vector.

Claim 55 (Withdrawn): The isolated polypeptide molecule according to Claim 27, wherein said isolated polypeptide further comprises an additional polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a Liver Stage Specific Antigen 1 (LSA-1), a sporozoite and liver-stage antigen (SALSA), and a sporozoite threonine and asparagine-rich protein (STARP).

Claim 56 (New): An isolated polypeptide molecule comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 57 (New): An isolated polypeptide molecule consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-26 were previously canceled.

Claims 27, 28, 43, and 48 are presently canceled.

Claims 27 and 35-38 have been amended.

Claims 56-57 have been added.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors on and to remove the term "[sic]" from pages 12 16, 20, and 33.

Claims 35-38 have been amended to improve the overall clarity of the present claims and to ensure proper antecedent basis. Specifically, Claims 35-38 have been amended to comply with antecedent basis for the terminology "reaction," "antigen/antibody complex" and "immunological reaction." Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previously pending Claim 29. Further, Claim 29 has been amended to delete the sequence previously appearing in part (ii). Claims 56 and 57 have been added and are supported by the specification and sequence listing as originally filed. Applicants reserve their rights to file a continuation application directed toward the canceled subject matter and, as such, request that cancellation of the same be without prejudice.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.